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Morse Update: Museum Will Reopen on June 1, Admission Will Be Free through July 4

WINTER PARK, Fla.—The Morse Museum has revised the projected date for reopening its galleries to Tuesday, June 1. Because work on the exhibits and works of art will continue for about a month after the museum reopens to the public, the Morse will provide free admission from June 1 through the July Fourth holiday weekend.

The museum was forced to close following an electrical short in its heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system on May 11 that caused an acrid odor and a fine dusting of particles to filter through air ducts into the galleries, shop, and some of the second-floor offices.

The process of recovery has been painstaking and methodical in order to secure and protect the works of art that were on exhibit at the time of the incident. Exhibits were dismantled while air ducts were being cleaned and acoustical ceiling tiles replaced. The museum begins the reinstallation and relighting of its galleries on Monday.

When the galleries reopen, museum staff will be fine tuning exhibition lighting. Also, a team of conservators—working closely with museum staff—will be selectively removing objects one by one for examination and cleaning. These objects, including paintings and Tiffany lamps, are those that were exposed at the time the museum's climate-control system malfunctioned. Visitors will be able to observe the conservators at work.

The Morse Museum houses the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany. The Morse is building a 12,000-square-foot addition that will house many of its objects and architectural materials from Tiffany's Long Island country estate, Laurelton Hall. The malfunction in the HVAC system was unrelated to the construction. The new galleries are on track to open in early 2011.

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